

GERMANY WILLING TO NEGOTIATE FOR PEACE, SAYS HIGH OFFICIAL

Teutonic Leader Says Good Offices of President Wilson Would Be Welcomed. To Demand Freedom of Seas.

ALSO POLAND'S INDEPENDENCE

Belgium Would Be Restored and French Territory Now Held Returned to France—Pontiff Considers Wilson Best Fitted to Bring About Peace.

Special to The Washington Herald.

New York, Sept. 4.—The willingness of Germany to negotiate for peace through President Wilson was announced today by one of the highest German officials in the United States.

This is the first direct expression of the Berlin government looking toward cessation of international hostilities through a third party. The Herald's informant is a man of the highest standing both in the United States and Germany and his views reflect those of the German government. He said: "I have no hesitancy in saying that overtures by the allied enemies of Germany for peace on a basis of five and six from a political standpoint, of course, there is no wish for peace in Germany. The German empire did not start this war, but she is willing at any time to consummate peace upon a basis of industrial equalization. "If President Wilson can impudently ally to change their program of German national destruction, a great step will be taken in the direction of cessation of hostilities. "The peace terms which would be set forth by the Berlin government include these: "The establishment of Poland as an independent kingdom, to be comprised of all Russian Poland, a part of Austrian Poland and a small part of German Poland. "Absolute freedom of the seas for maritime powers. "Belgium to be restored and her sovereignty and future neutrality guaranteed. "All French territory held by Germany to be restored to France. "German colonies seized by the allied powers to be returned to her or an indemnity for their loss paid to the German government. "Sterling's Fall Good Sign. "These are the principal peace conditions of the German empire. Indemnity for Germany's losses during the war would naturally arise, the amount, of course, depending upon the injuries inflicted before peace is restored. It is also the intention of Germany to demand civil rights of freedom and worship for the Jews in the newly established kingdom of Poland. "To my mind the most favorable peace sign is the recent collapse of foreign exchange in pounds sterling on the stock exchange. England has been financing this war and this decline points to her financial straits. "There has been much said about the desire of conquest on the part of Germany. This is untrue, and should be corrected in the American mind. Germany as a whole wants and intends to be only a national state. She does not want to govern alien and does not intend to do so if her right of commercial expansion is guaranteed. "No Doubt as to Result. "At no time has the result of the war been in doubt. Germany, the flower of her army corps engaged in Russia has been able to hold the western front against the allied armies. "Military experience shows that it is impossible to dislodge strongly entrenched troops except by employing five men to one. Germany and her allies now have from 4,000,000 to 7,000,000 men in the field. Shortly the invasion of Russia will cease and she will trench there. Do you think her allied enemies can bring to bear 35,000,000 men to dislodge German armies from their entrenchments? "I regard break of diplomatic relations between the United States and Germany as practically impossible now. There is always trouble with neutrals in time of war, but sentiment in America has undergone a vast change in relation to Germany during the last few weeks."

Two Christian towns wiped out by Turks. Armenian villages burned—Christian girls turn Moslems to escape violence. Athens, Sept. 4.—Turkish troops have burned the Armenian villages of Ismid and Nicomedia, slaughtering nearly the entire population of both towns, and cordoning to travelers arriving here today.

The Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions has received word that 1,000 of the Christian population of Urumiah, Persia, were killed and 4,000 others died of disease during the Turkish occupation of five months. All but a thousand of the 6,000 Christian families were robbed of all their possessions, a total loss to them of \$2,500,000. This information came to the board in a letter received by J. L. Caldwell, American Minister at Teheran, from Dr. William A. Shedd, of Urumiah. Br. Shedd said his figures were based on careful investigation. The Presbyterian Mission sustained a loss of \$10,000 during a Turkish attack, and during Turkish occupation more than 100 Christian girls turned Moslems in the hope of escaping violence.

Young Turks downcast. Fear defeat of Germany and Austria. Paris, Sept. 4.—A dispatch to the Havas Agency from Bucharest says: "Constantinople telegrams say that the Committee of Union and Progress is beginning to have doubts as to the final victory of Germany, and is considering the consequences of defeat. It has given orders that Greeks and Bulgarians be treated with all consideration. Other foreigners, including belligerents, are closely watched, but are not being molested. "No more German artillery engineer officers are arriving, and attempts are being made to train Turkish officers to replace them. These attempts are meeting with but little success. "The great fear in Turkish official circles is that Bulgaria will refuse the agreement proposed, and that Germany will fall in her negotiations with Roumania for the transit of munitions. The opinion in Constantinople generally inclines to pessimism."

Honor for Enver Pasha. First Turk to receive Kaiser's Pour le Merite Order. London, Sept. 4.—The Exchange Telegraph Amsterdam correspondent reports that Emperor William has bestowed the Order Pour le Merite on Enver Pasha, the Turkish minister of war, on the occasion of Enver's birthday. This is said to be the first time this order has been bestowed on a foreigner, other than Austrian officers.

900 Machinists on Strike. Torrington, Conn., Sept. 4.—Between 800 and 900 men, practically the entire force in the plant of the Hendey Machine Company, went on strike this morning. The men demand an eight-hour day, 15 per cent increase in wages, and time and a half for overtime work.

Hindenburg goes hunting. German General Not Too Busy to Lead Shooting Party. Berlin (via London), Sept. 4.—Although he is conducting the greatest campaign of history, Field Marshal von Hindenburg found time this week to take a day off for his favorite sport of deer stalking.

He arrived Monday evening at Schippenbil, in East Prussia, near the scenes of his two great battles—those of Tannenberg and the Masurian Lakes. Accompanied by Prince Dohna-Schlobitten and Count Dönhoff, the field marshal hunted in the forest of the Countess of Hultenburg and killed two fine stags.

\$2,000,000 Fire In Newport News

Chesapeake and Ohio Elevator Destroyed—Flames Still Raging.

Newport News, Va., Sept. 4.—Fire, the origin of which is unknown, about 12 o'clock tonight totally destroyed one of the Chesapeake and Ohio elevators, the general offices, threatened two piers, and several foreign steamers, causing a total damage of approximately \$2,000,000. The elevator was said to be the largest in the United States. In it was housed more than 500,000 bushels of grain, all billed to be shipped for use in allied armies of Europe. Thousands of people came from the nearby cities and towns to witness the conflagration. The fire was raging at an early hour this morning, the firemen being powerless to get it under control. So far as can be learned there was no loss of life.

SCORE SLAIN IN BORDER BATTLE

U. S. Soldiers and Texas Rangers Fight Bandits in Carranza Uniforms.

AMERICANS RETURN FIRE Organized Invasion by Mexicans Feared—10,000 Near Brownsville.

Brownsville, Tex., Sept. 4.—In an all-day battle that raged along the Rio Grande River between Mexican guerrillas in Carranza uniforms and United States soldiers and Texas rangers, a score of Mexicans were killed today. One American, a Texas ranger, was killed and another, John Salvini, a private in the Third Cavalry, was seriously wounded.

So serious is the situation considered that all troops at Fort Brown have been ordered under arms. All but one telegraph wire on both sides of the border have been cut, and full details of today's fighting are impossible to obtain.

Large numbers of Mexicans are massing on the river near the scene of today's battle, according to reports received here. An organized invasion of Texas is feared. There are said to be 10,000 Carranza troops in Tampulapas and Nuevo Leon, close to Brownsville. The Mexican element in Brownsville continues quiet, but fear is expressed that they may organize and assist those on the other side of the border. Today's fight started at a point between Mission and Old Hidalgo, when Mexicans fired on an American rancher named Drew.

Troop D, of the Third Cavalry, stationed at Mission, was ordered to the scene. Texas rangers and armed civilians joined them. A force of about forty Mexicans was on the opposite side of the river, and when they commenced firing, the Americans returned the fire. So fierce did the exchange become that reinforcements were sent for. Capt. J. C. McCoy, with Troops G and H, hurried to the scene. The fighting continued along the river for a distance of two miles until late this afternoon. When Capt. McCoy returned to Mission tonight he reported that ten dead Mexicans could be seen on the opposite side of the river, and he believed that as many more had been killed in the brush by bullets fired from the American side of the border.

For a distance of sixty miles up the river there was activity during the day and shots were exchanged at a dozen points. Farther in the interior there were clashes with Mexican bandits, who were crossing the river some days ago. Part of the gang which terrorized the country north of here last Thursday and murdered two Americans was cornered during the day and seven of them killed.

South of San Benito a number of Mexicans attempted an attack on a ranch house, but were driven across the river by cavalry. An attempt to cross the Rio Grande by Mexicans five miles from Brownsville was frustrated by cavalry. It is expected that 3,000 United States troops will be in the valley by tomorrow night with instructions to shoot to kill. The bandits who have succeeded in crossing the Rio Grande are handicapped in returning because of the great rise in the river. They have now scattered and are burning bridges and attempting to wreck railway trains robbing ranches, and murdering the citizens of Texas are determined to exterminate them.

GALE SWEEPS OVER BERMUDA. Steamer with 200 Americans Aboard Held in Port.

Hamilton, Bermuda, Sept. 4.—A severe gale swept over Bermuda last night, uprooting trees and doing a small amount of damage to other property. The electric light, power, and telephone services were discontinued. The steamship Bermudian, with 200 Americans on board, is delayed in port.

Russian Losses 5,500,000, Report.

Berlin (via wireless), Sept. 4.—The Overseas News Agency today gave out the following: "The Basle National Zeitung says the Russian losses since the beginning of the war amount to 22,172 officers, of whom 4,121 were killed, 18,442 wounded, and 15,655 missing. The total losses to the troops are 5,500,000."

Will Inspect Carriers' Uniforms. Superintendents and clerks in charge of postal carrier stations here are busy arranging for the inspection by September 14 of the uniforms to be worn by carriers during the fall and winter. Many of the carriers will purchase new suits.

'WE WILL BATTLE TILL VICTORIOUS,' PROMISE OF CZAR

Presides at Meeting Called to Lay New Plans for War.

HE MAY ENTER CONFLICT Will Take Personal Part if Necessary, Emperor Pledges.

CALLS FOR SUPREME EFFORT War Minister Also Sounds Defiant Note Before Conference of Representative Men.

Special Cable to The Washington Herald. Petrograd, Sept. 4.—"Russia will continue the war until a complete victory has been achieved." This was the statement of Emperor Nicholas today presiding at the first meeting of a special conference of Russia's representative men and institutions, called to discuss, organize and unify means for continuing the war. Minister of War Polivanoff spoke in a similar vein.

Utmost Effort Needed.

"The questions we are confronted with are of the gravest importance," declared the Emperor. "Our troops wait only for arms and munitions to achieve success. The great problem involved requires the utmost effort on our part. It is necessary to put it into action at once, and the way in which they are to be done will be decided on in our conference."

May Take Personal Part.

"I shall always follow with the most profound attention your labors, and will take a personal part in them if necessary. "We have a great task before us; we shall concentrate in it all the human effort of the country. Let us leave aside for the moment every other preoccupation, however grave, and even if it should concern the state, so long as it does not essentially affect the present time, nothing must distract our thoughts, our will and our strength from what is now our single goal, which is to drive the enemy from our borders."

Never Saw Confession.

"I never shot Miss Burger as the police say," confessed said Spellman. "I was in Providence between 9:30 and 10 o'clock when the doctor and the girl were shot on the road near Nyatt."

CHOLERA IN DOZEN LANDS. Official Eyes on Immigrants from Greece, Italy and Holland.

In a review of the world distribution of cholera, yellow fever, plague and typhus fever, just issued by the United States Public Health Service, it is pointed out that during the fiscal year ended June 30, 1915, cholera was present in Austria-Hungary, Ceylon, China, Egypt, Dutch East Indies, India, the Philippine Islands, Russia, the Straits Settlements, the Balkan territory, Germany and Indonesia.

IRON CROSS MELTED IN AIR.

American Officials Tell of Seeing German Aviator Fall. Paris, Sept. 4.—A German aviator brought down at Senlis recently was identified as Lieut. von Bailler, son of Gen. von Bailler, of the Wuerttemberg forces. Officials of the American clearing-house, who chanced to pass in their automobile the spot where the machine fell, report that they clearly saw an iron cross melting on the aviator's blazing breast.

Lilian Bell Is Bankrupt.

Chicago, Sept. 4.—Lilian Bell Bogue, pen name Lilian Bell, filed a voluntary petition in bankruptcy in the United States District Court today, giving her liabilities as \$20,26 and her assets as \$415.

Will Inspect Carriers' Uniforms.

WOMAN IN AUTOMOBILE WITH MURDERED DOCTOR



Miss Emily G. Burger, housekeeper of Dr. G. Franklin Mohr. Witnesses say her life had been threatened. Named in alleged letter from victim's wife.

"Mrs. Mohr Innocent," Negro Suspects Deny Confession

Statements Telling of Widow Hiring Men to Murder Husband Forced by Police, Dead Doctor's Chauffeur Declares. Prominent People Threatened Physician.

Providence, R. I., Sept. 4.—Another amazing chapter in the mysterious assassination of Dr. C. Franklin Mohr was written this afternoon when the three negroes upon whose testimony Mrs. Elizabeth Tiffany Blair Mohr, the wealthy physician's widow, was arrested for murder, repudiated in every detail their alleged confessions.

"Tell the people that we are absolutely innocent," said George W. Heals, Mohr's chauffeur, who, with Spellman and Victor Brown, was held as Mrs. Mohr's accomplices. "We believe that Mrs. Mohr, is innocent and knew nothing whatever about this crime. We never signed a confession."

"The police dragged me up and down the room," said Brown, "and shouted at me, 'you know you killed Dr. Mohr.' I said, 'well, just to have you quit, I'll say I did.' I never signed anything."

Following these recantations, Chief of Police Thomas F. Robbins, of Barrington, in whose district the murder occurred, admitted that so far as he knew, none of the three men had ever signed a confession in which Mrs. Mohr's name was mentioned.

DANIELS WILL STUDY DANGERS OF F-BOATS

Orders Investigation of Charges that This Type of Submarine Is Defective. The F type of submarine—of which there are three remaining—may be eliminated from the United States navy as the result of the loss of the F-4 at Honolulu.

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Von Hindenburg Tightens Grip on Port City and Forces Occupy Greater Part of West Bank of Dvina.

RUSSIANS TO GIVE UP VILNA

Austro-Germans Have Crossed Sereth in Face of Fierce Opposition and Heavy Fighting Continues for Possession of Strypa Position.

London, Sept. 4.—The evacuation of Riga by the Russians is considered imminent. Field Marshal von Hindenburg's army today tightened its grip on the port city by capturing another bridgehead on the Dvina River at Friedrichstadt, forty-two miles southeast of Riga. The Germans now occupy the whole of the west bank of the Dvina between Friedrichstadt and Lennawada, where they captured the bridgehead yesterday. The object of the German offensive on this section of the northern wing is to establish a base of supply by sea at Riga which shall serve to aid their long cherished plan of a drive on Petrograd.

URGES U. S. TO FORCE WAR PREPAREDNESS

Former Navy Secretary Meyer Asks People to Demand Action by Congress.

New York, Sept. 4.—George W. L. Meyer, former Secretary of the Navy, today issued a statement urging patriotic citizens to impress upon their Congressmen the great need of a navy adequate to insure the safety of this country. In case of a blockade of American ports by a foreign naval power, he pointed out the blow would be felt in the inland States as well as those on the seaboard. Mr. Meyer said: "Public sentiment should crystallize to such an extent that it will make itself felt and force upon Congress the facts as to the necessity of preparedness by demanding the highest military efficiency. This can only be accomplished by an up-to-date organization of administration and expenditure."

ATE SISTER'S HEART BY SAVAGE CULT'S ORDER

Nicaraguan to Die for Punishment Meted Out for Infraction of Marriage Law.

New Orleans, Sept. 4.—For killing his sister, cutting out her heart and eating it, Jose Aguirre will be hanged. The story was told in the Weekly American, published in Bluefields, Nicaragua, which reached here by steamer today. It follows: "Jose Aguirre cut his 15-year-old sister's throat, removed her heart, baked it and ate part of it. "The girl had violated an edict of a strange cult regarding her marriage to a cousin, and Aguirre, being her eldest brother, inflicted the penalty. "He confessed and will be hanged at Managua."

HAITI PROTESTS U. S. ACTION.

Minister Criticizes Seizure of Customs Houses by Marines. Haiti's minister to the United States, Solon Menlos, yesterday protested to Secretary of State Lansing against occupation of Haitian customs houses by American marines. After delivering a message from his government to Secretary Lansing, he was told by the latter of Admiral Caperton's martial law proclamation. He was informed by Secretary Lansing, it is understood, that Admiral Caperton has been instructed to use what measures he deemed best to restore permanent order on the island.

Belated Punishment by Mar.

Berlin, Sept. 4.—Lieut. Baron von Forstner, who figured in the Zabern riot two years ago, has been killed in battle, according to a report received here. It was Lieut. Forstner who was accused of shooting a crippled schoolmaster, when Frenchmen at Zabern, Alsace, made a demonstration against the Germans.

Orphan Home Burns; Five Tots Die.

San Francisco, Sept. 4.—Five children were burned to death today when fire destroyed the St. Francis Girls' Orphanage, a home for orphan children. Fifty-one other children were rescued. The dead: Elizabeth O'Brien, age 5; Katie O'Brien, age 11, and three unidentified girls.

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PEDRO ATE DIAMOND, BUT DOCTOR GOT IT

"Sparkler" of Wealthy Woman Disappeared Because It Looked Like Rock Candy. Philadelphia, Pa., Sept. 4.—Pedro, the fancy little Chihuahua dog of Mrs. R. C. Nuckolls, who is stopping here at the Bellevue-Stratford Hotel, has been operated upon for diamonds. This is not a new disease, but merely a medical way of stating that Pedro has been cut open to remove a two-and-a-half carat diamond that he swallowed recently. Upon her arrival here several days ago from New York Mrs. Nuckolls discovered that Pedro was very sick. Dr. Mercier, a New York veterinarian, was summoned. About the same time Mrs. Nuckolls discovered that a big diamond was missing from her pendant. A close examination of the pendant revealed the marks of dog teeth. It was all very plain. Pedro was placed under an anesthetic. A delicate incision was made and the costly gem that the dog had swallowed for rock candy was removed. Both dog and diamond are doing well.

PARTNER HELD AFTER MURDER

Woman in Case of Cord Killing New Jersey Police Say. Camden, N. J., Sept. 4.—Olaf Peterson, partner of Samuel S. Cord, who was murdered in the swamps at Laurel Springs last Monday night, is locked up today in "murderer's row" in the Camden county jail. His every word are being recorded on dictaphons and every movement being watched. He is being held as a "material witness."